

Quarrying is cited as one of the causes for habitat loss on a large scale. Yet over much of southern Britain, quarrying tends to be located within agricultural landscapes that have relatively low biodiversity. Where such quarries have become abandoned and left to re-vegetate naturally, they have produced some of our richest, most exciting aculeate sites (see my paper in *BJENH* 19: 7–33), sites that could not have developed without such a land-use history. Quarrying has probably created far more valuable aculeate habitat nationally than it has destroyed.

Within Table 6 of the paper, some of the species assigned to habitat specialist categories are incorrect. At least half of the eight or so modern records for *Lasioglossum sexnotatum* (Kirby) are for non-heathland sites (S. Falk and A. Knowles data). *Nomada conjungens* Herrich is not a specialist of maritime cliffs (the host bee *Andrena proxima* can colonise a surprisingly diverse array of umbellifer-rich habitats and the *Nomada* is found sparingly across this variety of habitats). The process used by Michael Archer to draw up this list (production of a report for Buglife) did not appear to involve widespread consultation with many of the most active British aculeate workers, and is not therefore based on the most current knowledge, which is the impression given in the title. – STEVEN FALK, Warwickshire Museum, Market Place, Warwick CV3 4 4SA.

### Reactions to the comments of Steven Falk

I welcome the comments on habitat management which I would regard as extensions and elaborations of my comments. Concerning grasslands, Falk's comments are mainly about the need of flower-rich areas which I included in my advice. I realised that my attempt to provide a list of Priority Species specialists was really a first attempt and would probably need corrections – I carried out some corrections while preparing the paper. I welcome the updating by Falk and would welcome further updating of species and their habitats from fellow naturalists. Finally, my sources of information are clearly stated in my paper so that there is no need for misunderstandings. The profiles published by BWARS are, of course, current information.

MICHAEL ARCHER

### ANNOUNCEMENT NEW BENHS BROCHURE

With this edition of *The Journal* we are including a copy of the new BENHS brochure which has recently been produced. This brochure updates a more simple black and white version which has been our principle means of publicity for many years. This new version supplements information which appears on the Society's web site. We are sending you a copy both for your information and in the hope that you may be able to attract some new members to the Society. If you know anybody who might be interested in joining perhaps you could pass this copy of the brochure to them. If you need further copies, or think that they might be useful for display at a meeting or exhibition that you are attending, please contact: David Young (Membership Secretary) at 22 Wordsworth Close, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1WF (email: bugmanyoun@btinternet.com) who will be pleased to supply them.

With an initial print run of 2000 copies it is estimated this brochure will have a shelf life of about four years. It will then be updated in the light of experience. If you have any comments on the design, illustrations or any other aspect of this project please contact the Membership Secretary at the address given above.

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